

AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE
INTERNATIONAL-TYPE SEARCH REPORT



ARTICLE 15(5)



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National Application No. 2002950494	Country or Office of Filing AUSTRALIA	Applicant's or agent's file reference COPY
Filing Date (day/month/year) 31 July 2002	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 31 July 2002	Priority Country Code AU
Applicant HYDROMETALLURGY RESEARCH LABORATORIES		

Date of request for international-type search 31 July 2002	International-type search request AU Job No.
This international-type search report consists of a total of 3 sheets <input type="checkbox"/> It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.	
<p>The search was based on the following <u>search statement</u>:</p> <p>A process for extracting gold and other precious metals from a refractory ore/concentrate, the method comprising fine grinding the ore, subjecting the ore to an alkaline (or slightly acid) leaching step which comprises alkaline and oxygen as an oxidising agent to achieve partial oxidation, and subjecting the partially oxidated ore/concentrate to a cyanide extraction step.</p>	

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER.												
Int. Cl. ⁷ C22B 3/00, 3/12, 11/00												
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC												
B. FIELDS SEARCHED												
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC C22B 3/00, 3/12, 11/-, 1/11												
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched AU: IPC AS ABOVE												
Electronic database consulted during the international search (name of database, and where practicable, search terms used) Derwent WPAT: IPC + LIME OR LIMESTONE OR CaCO ₃ OR CAO OR CALCIUM CARBONATE												
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT												
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.										
X	WO 00/17407 A (M.I.M.HOLDINGS LIMITED) 30 March 2000 Whole document											
A	AU 71751/2000 A1 (MICHAEL STOYCHEVSKI) 31 May 2001 Whole document											
X	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 2000-304187/27, Class J01, CN 1228480 A (INST METALS RES CHINESE ACAD SCI) 15 September 1999											
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.												
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td> <td>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</td> <td>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td> <td>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td> <td>"&" document member of the same patent family</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family	"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention											
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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed												
Date of the actual completion of the international-type search 29 August 2002		Date of mailing of the international-type search report 04 September 2002										
Name and mailing address AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaustalia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929		Authorized Officer MATTHEW FRANCIS Telephone No. (02) 6283 2424										

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C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
X	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 96-009105/01, Class M25, RU 2034062 C1 (CHEM TECHN RES INST) 30 April 1995	
A	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 93-345542/44, Class M25, CN 1067271 A (XI'AN COLLEGE METALLURGICAL BUILDING) 23 December 1992	
A	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 93-345541/44, Class M25, CN 1067270 A (XI'AN COLLEGE-METALLURGICAL BUILDING) 23 December 1992	
A	EP 177292 B1 (SHERRITT GORDON LIMITED) 2 May 1991 Whole document	
A	EP 514471 B1 (ASHLAND OIL, INC.) 8 June 1994 Whole document	